

# WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU



## FACT SHEET

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
445 12th STREET SW  
WASHINGTON DC 20554

PR5000

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### AERONAUTICAL ADVISORY (UNICOM) STATIONS

**DEFINITION:** An aeronautical advisory (Unicom) station is an aeronautical station used for advisory and Civil Defense communications primarily with private aircraft stations.

**SCOPE OF SERVICE:** Communications shall be limited to the necessities of safe and expeditious operation of private aircraft, such as the condition of runways, types of fuel available, wind conditions, weather information, dispatching, or other necessary information. However, at any landing area at which an airport control tower, FAA flight service station (FSS) or a remote communications outlet (RCO) is located, an aeronautical advisory station shall not transmit information pertaining to the condition of runways, wind conditions, or weather information during the hours of operation of the airdrome control station or FAA flight service stations. On a secondary basis, communications may be transmitted which pertains to the efficient portal-to-portal transit of which the flight is a portion, such as request for ground transportation, food, or lodging required during transit. Communications between an aeronautical advisory station and air carrier aircraft shall be limited to the necessities of safety of life and property in the air.

Unicom stations may not be used for air traffic control purposes other than the relay of air traffic control information pertaining to (1) ATC clearances in accordance with agreements between FAA and the station licensee, (2) revisions of proposed departure time, and (3) take-off, arrival or flight plan cancellation time.

**APPLICATION:** A station license must be obtained from the Federal Communications Commission for operation of an aeronautical advisory (Unicom) station by filing an application on FCC Form 406. Applicants should refer to the general instructions on the application form and to Part 87 of the FCC Rules before preparing a formal application.

**NOTICE REQUIRED:** Whenever an application is submitted for a new or renewed aeronautical advisory station license or modification to change the assigned frequency at an uncontrolled airport, the applicant must give written notice of such application to the owner of the landing area to be served and all aviation service organizations located at the landing area within the 10-day period immediately preceding the filing of the application with the Commission. Such notice shall include the applicant's name, address, and date such notices were given. In the event the applicant is the owner of the landing area and/or there are no other service organizations on the field, a statement should be included with the application indicating that operations of this nature exist for the landing area at your location. The above notifications are not required at airports having a full or part-time control tower or full or part-time flight service station (FSS).

An aviation service organization may be defined as any business firm which maintains facilities at a landing area for the purpose of one or more of the following general aviation activities: (a) aircraft fueling; (b) aircraft services (e.g., parking, storage, tie-downs); (c) aircraft maintenance; and/or other passenger/freight services.

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**CONFLICTING APPLICATIONS:** In those instances where more than one application is filed for a Unicom station to serve a non-towered landing area, the Commission will designate the applications for hearing to determine which applicant is best qualified to render advisory service. Failure to appear at such hearing may result in the application being dismissed with prejudice. If the applicant desires to have his application dismissed, a request should be submitted pursuant to Section 1.961 of the FCC Rules.

**FREQUENCIES:** The frequencies available to Unicom stations at landing areas, where there is not a control tower are as follows: 122.700, 122.725, 122.800, 122.975, 123.000, 123.050 and 123.075 MHz. 122.950 MHz is assigned for use at landing areas, where there is a control tower, flight service station (FSS) or remote communications outlet (RCO).

Licensees of Unicom stations are required to cooperate in the use of frequencies to minimize interference and obtain the most effective use of the facilities. Frequencies are available for assignment on a shared basis only and are not assigned for the exclusive use of any applicant.

**DISPATCH AND CONTROL POINTS:** Dispatch and control points must be located on the landing area served by the Unicom station. A dispatch point is an operating position from which messages are transmitted under the direct supervision of the licensed control point operator. Operation of a dispatch point by other service organizations through the licensed transmitter is permitted without further authorization from the Commission on condition that arrangements for the installation of a dispatch point is established directly with the licensee of the station to the mutual satisfaction of all parties concerned. This optional arrangement is encouraged by the Commission to provide other service organizations on a field an equal opportunity to share the communication advantages available to the user in this service.

Although the operation of a dispatch point does not require authorization from the Commission, operation of additional control points requires filing FCC Form 406 for modification of the station license before authorization can be granted. Control points must be exclusively operated and controlled by personnel directly responsible to the licensee.

**OPERATOR LICENSE:** No operator permit is required. However, all transmitter adjustments or tests in the servicing or maintenance of advisory stations shall be made by or under the immediate supervision and responsibility of a person holding a commercial operator license, either radiotelephone or radiotelegraph. Further information concerning operator permits and licenses may be obtained by phoning the FCC's National Call Center at 1-888-CALLFCC (1-888-225-5322).

**EQUIPMENT:** FCC rules provide that each transmitter utilized must be type accepted or type approved by the Commission. Power output shall not exceed 10 watts. The transmitter type number assigned by the manufacturer and the FCC identifier must be indicated on the application for a station authorization.

**FREQUENCY MEASUREMENTS:** The assigned frequency of an aeronautical advisory station must be measured when the transmitter is originally installed, when a change or adjustment is made in a transmitter which may affect the operating frequency, or whenever there is reason to believe the operating frequency has shifted beyond the permissible tolerance.

You may obtain a current copy of Part 87 of the FCC Rules from the Government Printing Office. Prices are subject to change without notice. We suggest you contact the United States Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, or telephone (202) 512-1800 for further information.

General information about Aeronautical Advisory Stations may be obtained by calling the FCC's National Call Center at 1-888-CALLFCC (1-888-225-5322) or by writing the Federal Communications Commission, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245. You may also visit our web site at <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb>.